

not with any accuracy be said that the American tradition of education is somehow a tradition of irreligion. On the contrary, it is a stubborn fact of our history that that tradition is one of hospitality to religious values and to a religiously based moral training.

Today, church-related schools of the United States are making a vast and patent contribution to the public welfare. Considering the largest of the groups of these—the schools under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church—the extensiveness of citizen education which it supplies is remarkable. The phrase of the preceding sentence—"citizen education which it supplies"—bears repeating, since, as will later be stressed herein, these schools supply not some form of special or eccentric training, of which society can take no notice, but education recognized by the state as meeting essential citizen needs.

In 1960 there were enrolled in Catholic elementary schools 4,401,824 pupils.¹⁵ In the same year Catholic secondary schools had an enrollment of 885,406 students. It is estimated that in 1961 Catholic elementary schools are providing education to approximately four-and-a-half million children and Catholic secondary schools to approximately one million children. In 1960 Catholic elementary and secondary schools were educating 12.6% of the total school population, and for 1961 the percentage is believed to be slightly higher. In a number of states and the District of Columbia Catholic schools are educating considerably higher percentages of the children in school—in Rhode Island 25.8%, Wisconsin 23.3%, Pennsylvania 21.9%, Massachusetts 21.9%, Illinois 21.3%, New Hampshire 21%, New Jersey 21%, New York 20.8%, Delaware 18%, Minnesota 16.9%, Vermont 15.6%, Ohio 15.4%, Maryland 15%, Missouri 14.8%, Connecticut 14.7%, Michigan 14.4%, Louisiana 14.3%, Nebraska 14.1%, District of Columbia 13.8%, Iowa 12.9%.

Thus in nineteen states (and the District of Columbia) having a total school population of 21,868,683, and whose school population represents 51.9% of the total national school population, Catholic parochial schools are performing the public service of educating 18.6% of all children in elementary and secondary schools.

While one child out of every ten American children in Hawaii receives in a Catholic school the complete education deemed adequate by the more Super. Ct., April 28, 1961; Engel v. Vitale, 10 N.Y.2d 174, 176 N.E.2d 579, 182 N.Y.S.2d 659, cert. granted, 30 U.S.L. Week 3177 (U.S. Dec. 5, 1961) (No. 468).

¹⁵ The statistics for which no other reference is given in the following paragraphs are contained in, or computed from, the figures given in the General Summary of The Official